The Boston Computer Society

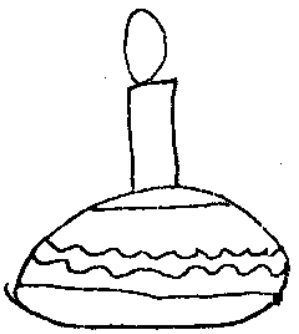
SINCLAIR/TIMEX USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 4 October 1982

This newsletter is produced to inform group members of the agenda and logistics for future meetings, as well as to recap and amplify the information provided at the last meeting. It also provides a forum for members and interested parties to communicate what they have learned or developed relating to Sinclair and Timex computer products.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 1982
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Large Science Auditorium
UMass, Harbor Campus
(Directions on last page)



AGENDA

This meeting marks the first anniversity of the Sinclair/Timex User Group. We are planning a big celebration, and have executives of both Sinclair Research, Ltd. and Timex Computer Corporation coming to our meeting:

- Ms. Maragret Bruzelius, Executive Vice President for the U. S. Operations of Sinclair Research, Ltd., will offer interesting insights into Sinclair's history and its goals. Prior to becoming the head of U. S. Operations, Ms. Bruzelius was with Advent and Polaroid. She has been involved with the consumer electronics industry for the duration of her professional career.

- Mr. Dan Ross, Vice President of Timex Computer Corporation, will speak about the background and goals of the Timex Computer Corporation, and functions of the newly formed Timex Computer Club. Mr. Ross has over 15 years experience in high technology areas, and has held positions with IBM, ITEL, and MEMOREX Corporation.

We are looking forward to what these two have to say about their companies and products. In addition, we have asked representatives of a number of local Sinclair/Timex related companies to display their products.

We will be advertising the meeting and anticipate a large turnout.

HEELLLP ...

We would like to encourage more direct participation in the planning and implementation of group meetings and activities. Contact Sue or Cliff to volunteer.

The Boston Computer Society

SINCLAIR/TIMEX USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 4 October 1982

This newsletter is produced to inform group members of the agenda and logistics for future meetings, as well as to recap and amplify the information provided at the last meeting. It also provides a forum for members and interested parties to communicate what they have learned or developed relating to Sinclair and Timex computer products.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 1982
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Large Science Auditorium
UMass, Harbor Campus
(Directions on last page)

AGENDA

This meeting marks the first anniversity of the Sinclair/Timex User Group. We are planning a big celebration, and have executives of both Sinclair Research, Ltd. and Timex Computer Corporation coming to our meeting:

- Ms. Maragret Bruzelius, Executive Vice President for the U. S. Operations of Sinclair Research, Ltd., will offer interesting insights into Sinclair's history and its goals. Prior to becoming the head of U. S. Operations, Ms. Bruzelius was with Advent and Polaroid. She has been involved with the consumer electronics industry for the duration of her professional career.

- Mr. Dan Ross, Vice President of Timex Computer Corporation, will speak about the background and goals of the Timex Computer Corporation, and functions of the newly formed Timex Computer Club. Mr. Ross has over 15 years experience in high technology areas, and has held positions with IBM, ITEL, and MEMOREX Corporation.

We are looking forward to what these two have to say about their companies and products. In addition, we have asked representatives of a number of local Sinclair/Timex related companies to display their products.

We will be advertising the meeting and anticipate a large turnout.

HEELLLP ...

We would like to encourage more direct participation in the planning and implementation of group meetings and activities. Contact Sue or Cliff to volunteer.

NOVEMBER'S MEETING

In November, we plan a meeting primarily for prospective buyers or new owners of a Sinclair or Timex computer. This meeting could help you decide if the Sinclair or Timex computer is an appropriate gift for someone you know this holiday season.

LAST MEETING ACTIVITIES

At the September meeting, Dave Wood described the new CAI (Widget) interface and printer which he recently purchased. Paul McGarry described and demonstrated parallel input/output to the computer. Also, Henry April gave us an update on the large keyboard he developed.

THE HISTORY OF THE SINCLAIR/TIMEX USER GROUP
By Susan C. T. Mahoney, Founder and Director

Last fall, I started the user group to bring owners of the Sinclair computers together to share how they were using them, as well as to discuss problems and discover solutions. During late summer of 1981, I did some contract work with Sinclair Research in Boston. I was curious and anxious to meet people who were interested in or already using the Sinclair computer for applications in business, education, science, and the home.

Our first meeting was on October 14, 1981, one week after Clive Sinclair, founder of Sinclair Research, Ltd., introduced the ZX-81 to the United States at a press conference in Boston. The user group met in an office located in Kenmore Square, eighteen people attended the meeting. Since Sinclair had not started shipping the ZX-81, most of the attendees were owners of the ZX-80 (the model that preceeded the ZX-81). The meeting was very successful with a lot of enthusiasm exchanged.

The second meeting, however, almost did not occur. Two days prior to the meeting, I was informed that we no longer had access to our meeting place. The company that was letting us use the space went out of business. Frantically, I searched to find another place that was available for the right price (free) and near public transportation. After checking with many government agencies and failing to find a suitable place, we met in the BCS office. This change required posting signs at the old meeting site to inform people of the last minute change. After trying to squeeze 22 people into the BCS office, it was obvious that we needed to find a larger meeting place for the group.

At the Northeast Computer Show, I happened to sit next to an enthusiastic new owner of a ZX-81. After we spoke for a while, she offered her place of work, which was the Countway Library (the Harvard Medical Library). That worked out for two meetings, but again we outgrew the space.

Things were beginning to look a bit grim for finding a permanent meeting place that could accommodate our rapid growth. Then, Rick Kane called and offered me the use of the whole Physics Department at UMass, Boston, Harbor Campus. When I learned we could have TV monitors, places to store some of our equipment, a choice between an auditorium that could seat 150 and one for 550, smaller rooms for breakout sessions, access by public transportation, and parking, it was obvious where our home would be. Futhermore, Rick is director of the Source and Compuserve users groups of the BCS. I knew that some day we would have a modem for the computer and that cooperation between our groups would prove very beneficial.

Since February we have been meeting in the small auditorium which accommodates 150 people. During the summer months attendance varied between 50 and 75 people. Our September newsletter had a mailing of over 300. Now, with people returning from vacation, the number of attendees will grow. Also, due to increased sales of both the ZX-81 and the TS-1000, we expect a very large increase in attendance. Therefore, as of October, we will be meeting in the large auditorium, one floor above the present meeting room. We hope that UMass will continue to be our home until the BCS gets its new building. (See the article in the July-August issue of the Computer Update.)

In July our group's name was changed from Sinclair User Group to Sinclair/Timex User Group to reflect our interest and support for owners of both Sinclair and Timex computers.

I'm excited for the future of the group. With the rapid growth, we have the potential of becoming the largest group within the Boston Computer Society. However, we will always try to structure the meetings so that everyone is served. We are always open to new suggestions and ideas. If you have any for the next meetings, please contact me.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Skip Hammel	Sinclair Technical Information
David Ornstein	Computer Display, Keyboard Scanning, ZX-81 Parser
Dave Wood	Fl. Pt. Numbers, Tape Utilities, Linking BASIC Programs
John Baskies	Timex Marketing Planning
Kirt Olson	How to Write for SYNTAX
Ann Zevnik	SYNTAX Group Discount, TS-1000 Press Conference
Mike Gonnerman	London ZX Microfair Report
Mary Reiman	New Things to Come from Sinclair
Mike Levy	New Hardware/Software in England, Mindware Products
Henry April	Design of the E-Z Key Keyboard
John King	Clock/Family Bulletin Board Program
Bob Smith	64K Memory Applications
Mike Weiskoff	Computer Education
Walter Stepanski	Survey of Support Resources
Rick Kane	Computer Bulletin Boards
Paul McGarry	Parallel I/O Demonstration

We wish to acknowledge the following companies whose representatives made contributions to our meetings: Agnew, Carter, and McCarthy; Demystifying Computers; E-Z Key; Heuristics; Jordan Kahn; King Software; Mindware Company; Sinclair Research, Ltd.; Siriusware; The Harvard Group; and Timex Computer Corporation.

TRY THIS

It has been suggested that we have a program in each letter. Here is a simple program that plots Lissajous patterns, such as you may see on an oscilloscope. Enter the first two inputs as small integers, less than ten. The third parameter controls the resolution of the plot. Try 2, 3, 50.

SAVE "LISS"

```
10 INPUT A
20 INPUT B
30 INPUT N
40 FOR I=0 TO 2*PI STEP PI/N
50 PLOT 32+20*SIN (A*I), 21+20*COS (B*I)
60 NEXT I
```

(Remember TO, PI, STEP, SIN, and COS are tokens.)

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING

The Sinclair/Timex User Group meets in the Large Science Auditorium (Room 8/1/009) of the University of Massachusets of Boston, Harbor Campus. The Harbor Campus is only three miles from downtown Boston and easily accessible by public or private transportation. From the north or west, take the Southeast Expressway to Exit 17. Turn left onto Columbia Road. Enter the rotary and take the first right (Morrissey Boulevard). Bear right on the traffic island, following UMass/Boston sign. Turn left into the campus. From the south, take the Southeast Expressway to Exit 18 (near the Boston Gas tanks). Follow Morrissey Boulevard northward to the campus. On the MBTA, take the Red Line (Ashmont Train) to Columbia Station. Transfer to the free University suttlebus in the T parking lot.

INFORMATION

For more information, contact either:

Sue Mahoney, Director
c/o The Boston Computer Society
or leave a message at
(617) 361-4736 or 361-5819

or

Cliff Danielson, Editor
14 Davis Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
(617) 256-4638 (Home)

The Boston Computer Society

Three Center Plaza
Boston, MA 02108
617-367-8080